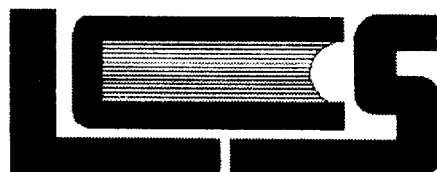


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DISTRICT MEDIA CENTER  
Allan E. Ragsdale, Director



LEON COUNTY SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT  
William J. Montford, III

February 12, 2001

60-258  
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FEB 27 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

BOARD MEMBERS  
Georgia "Joy" Bowen  
Dee Crumpler  
J. Scott Dailey

Commissioner Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: FCC 00-455, ET Docket No. 00-258, RM-9920 and 9911

Dear Commissioners:

We are concerned about the future of the ITFS spectrum, which is under assault in the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making on 3G spectrum allocations that was released January 5, 2001. ITFS is an important part of our educational programs in Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Madison, Taylor and Wakulla School Districts. Moreover, preservation of the full ITFS band is absolutely critical if wireless broadband is to become a reality not only for our students but also for our entire community.

As you are aware, recent rule changes have opened the ITFS spectrum to the implementation of wireless two-way video and broadband data services, including high speed Internet access. The educational power of ITFS has been expanded under the digital two-way rules to provide advanced learning services, interactive video, and wireless broadband Internet. As distance learning becomes more robust and interactive, ITFS offers educational institutions throughout the country an affordable high-speed on-ramp to the broadband Internet for students and adult learners in the classroom, at home and at work. This goal was recently cited as the first priority for policymakers by the bipartisan Congressional Web-Based Education Commission. In addition, fixed wireless broadband promises to bring a competitor to DSL and cable modem technologies to our community, making broadband access not only more widely available but also more affordable. ITFS does not only benefit schools, students and adult learners, however. In addition to the broad range of community programming currently carried on ITFS spectrum, the recent two-way order has filled a void where legislation and regulation have failed to produce affordable, ubiquitous broadband Internet access for Americans. Working in conjunction with wireless communications companies, ITFS spectrum is being used to bring broadband to underserved populations in rural, urban and otherwise isolated communities nationwide. ITFS licensees are therefore serving the educational community as they help the nation and the Commission to bridge the Digital Divide.

If the Commission reallocates any part of the ITFS spectrum for 3G mobile device services, the capacity, usefulness, and value of ITFS would be significantly diminished. Even if only part of the spectrum is taken away, many educational institutions would lose their ITFS service altogether, while others would face new equipment costs, service disruption and cutbacks, lower quality of service and signal interference. In either scenario, the ITFS community would be incapable of supporting advanced wireless services and promoting the development of broadband services to the educational community and to underserved communities nationwide.

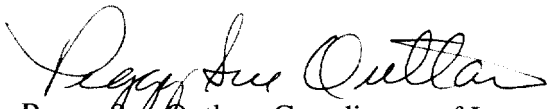
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If the ITFS spectrum is compromised in any way, these public benefits will be lost. We hope that you will support us in maintaining the integrity of our spectrum and in keeping this tremendous educational resource alive and strong.

Sincerely,



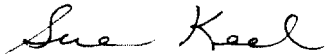
Allan E. Ragsdale, Director of Educational Media  
LEON DISTRICT SCHOOLS  
North Florida Instructional Television Consortium



Peggy Sue Outlaw, Coordinator of Instructional Media and Technology  
GADSDEN DISTRICT SCHOOLS



Linda Hewett, Director of Technology Services  
JEFFERSON DISTRICT SCHOOLS



Sue Keel, Coordinator of Special Programs  
WAKULLA DISTRICT SCHOOLS